

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: March 16, 2006
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Defendant Found Guilty of Assault on WSP Detective

On March 15, 2006, a Spokane County jury found a 34 year old Spokane man guilty of second degree assault on a WSP Detective. Ian M. Harris was found guilty of assault after he attempted to intentionally ram Detective Jeff Thoet with the vehicle he was driving.

This incident occurred on October 10, 2005 when Detective Thoet observed a pickup truck entering an alley in an area known for criminal activity relating to auto theft. Detective Thoet followed Harris into the alley. Harris observed Detective Thoet's undercover vehicle, he placed his pickup in reverse, accelerating backwards towards Detective Thoet. Thoet had to quickly move his vehicle out of the way before he was rammed in his vehicle.

After nearly striking Detective Thoet, Harris's vehicle continued in reverse out of the alley into the roadway skidding to a stop. Harris could have caused a serious injury collision as he left the alley. After taking cover to avoid being hit, Detective Thoet attempted to contact Harris who had stopped in the roadway. Harris ignored several commands and sped away. Harris was also found guilty on three misdemeanor charges including Reckless driving, obstructing a law enforcement officer and second degree driving with a suspended license. Harris has a lengthy criminal history and faces a significant sentence in this case.

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